KING IN BLACK

VENOM

CATES
COELLO
ABURTOV

MARVEL
34
LGY#199

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DURING ONE OF THE LOWEST POINTS OF HIS LIFE, DISGRACED REPORTER EDDIE BROCK STUMBLED UPON AN ALIEN ORGANISM CALLED A SYMBIOTE.

SENSING A KINSHIP WITH BROCK AND A SHARED HATRED OF THE COSTUMED VIGILANTE CALLED SPIDER-MAN, THE CREATURE BONDED TO HIM.

SEVERED FROM ITS OWN COLLECTED CONSCIOUSNESS, THE SYMBIOTE FOUND A WILLING PARTNER IN BROCK, AND THE TWO BECAME A VIGILANTE IN THEIR OWN RIGHT.

ELIMINATING THE CRIMINAL ELEMENT WITH EXTREME PREJUDICE, THEY ARE...

VENOM

RISE

KNULL, THE GOD OF THE SYMBIOTES, HAS COVERED EARTH IN A SYMBIOTE DOME. **EDDIE BROCK**, AS VENOM, ATTEMPTED TO FACE THE SYMBIOTE GOD, WHO STRIPPED HIM OF HIS SYMBIOTE AND DROPPED HIM TO HIS DEATH.

EDDIE'S SPIRIT LIVED ON AS A CODEX IN THE SYMBIOTE HIVE, WHERE HE WAS FOUND BY FLASH THOMPSON.

FLASH WAS ABLE TO ESCAPE TO THE WORLD OF THE LIVING, BUT THE HIVE IS ***KNULL'S DOMAIN***, AND NOW EDDIE HAS TO FACE HIM WITHIN IT ***ALONE***....

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FLASH THOMPSON WAS A *BULLY.*

THEN HE WAS A *SOLDIER.*

THEN A *SUPER HERO.*

AND THEN HE WAS *DEAD.*

NOW HE'S A *DRAGON...*

ME? EDDIE BROCK? I'M A GHOST.

TRAPPED AS A MEMORY OF WHO I ONCE WAS, INSIDE OF A SYMBIOTE HIVE MIND COVERING THE ENTIRE WORLD.

LITTLE HOST...

FIGHTING THE MANIFESTATION OF THEIR GOD IN AN *UNDERWORLD HELL.*

SO, SUFFICE TO SAY...

...DID YOU REALLY THINK I WOULDN'T FIND YOU WITHIN MY *OWN* DOMAIN? DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD WIN?

N-NO...

...I'VE GIVEN UP ON THINGS MAKING SENSE.

KRAK

...BUT EVERYTHING'S WORTH A SHOT, RIGHT?

HEH. LIKE I TOLD YOU SO LONG AGO...

...I AM NOT REALLY HERE, HOST.

I AM ABOVE. IN YOUR WORLD.

N-NO! GET... OFF!

I WILL RIP THE LIGHT OUT OF IT AS A STILL-BEATING HEART...

AND SOON, IT WILL BE MINE.

AS I HAVE DONE...TO YOU...

...AND...

...TO YOUR SON.

NO! PLEASE!

NO!

EVERY MOMENT IN MY LIFE REPEATS ITSELF.

WHEN I WALKED INTO THAT CHURCH...

...THE WORLD FELL ***BLACK*** DOWN AROUND ME.

AND THEN...I WAS BEATEN. TIME AND TIME AGAIN...

...LIKE WHEN I WAS A CHILD.

AND NOW...

...THOSE SINS, THAT ***DARKNESS,*** THAT LIVED INSIDE ME...

...THAT HAVE NOW ***RAINED DOWN*** ON THE EARTH LIKE THEY DID ON ME ALL THOSE YEARS AGO...

...IT WILL START AGAIN. WITH ***THE WORLD.*** WITH MY ***SON.***

IT'S ALL PART OF THE CYCLE.

ASHES...

...TO ASHES...

DUST... TO D--

EDDIE! ARE YOU THERE?! CAN YOU HEAR ME?!

KNULL! HE IS DISTRACTED IN THE WORLD ABOVE!

FOUND YOU, EDDIE!

YOU... YOU BROKE FREE...

YOU... FOUND ME...

ALWAYS.

WE ARE TOGETHER AGAIN, EDDIE...

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NO!

WE ARE

VENOM!

NO! I KILLED YOU! YOU'RE MINE!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHY ARE WE LEAVING THE FIGHT? KNULL IS BACK THERE!

NO, EDDIE. THAT IS NOT KNULL. ONLY A *MANIFESTATION.*

THE REAL FIGHT. THE *WAR.*

IT IS ABOVE.

WE MUST GO TO THE REAL WORLD.

WAIT, HOW? I THOUGHT... I THOUGHT I WAS ONLY A MEMORY...

YOU ARE A *CODEX.* I CAN TAKE YOU WITH ME. WE MUST ONLY CHOOSE A FORM.

OH, WELL...

...WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST TIME I STOLE AN IDEA FROM ANOTHER GUY WHO CALLED HIMSELF VENOM.*

*CHECK OUT VENOM INC. (2018) TO SEE WHAT EDDIE'S REFERENCING! --EDITOR

EDDIE? HOLY @#$%, MAN! IS THAT YOU?

US. AND YES.

GEEZ. OKAY, BIG GUY. POINT ME WHERE YOU NEED ME. I CAN PROVIDE COVER OR--

NO...

THIS IS BETWEEN ME AND KNULL. I HAVE TO SAVE MY BOY.

I NEED YOU ON THE GROUND.

ON THE GROUND... BUT MY PHYSICAL FORM IS IN A GRAVE... I CAN'T JUST...

YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED TO CLETUS WHEN HE GOT A DRAGON SYMBIOTE?

I DON'T... I WAS DEAD FOR THAT.

TRUST ME.

GO FIND OUT.

I GOT THIS.

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EDDIE, WAIT! THERE IS SOMETHING--

I KNOW! WE'RE ALMOST THERE! WE JUST HAVE TO GET TO DYLAN BEFORE--

NO! EDDIE...

...LOOK!

THIS IS IT, EDDIE!

WHAT THE ONE CALLED WRAITH TOLD US ABOUT! *IT'S HERE!*

THE GOD OF LIGHT IS HERE!

I HAVE FELT HIM...

LIKE OUR KIND...BUT DIFFERENT...

HIS LIGHT...

...APPROACHING...

...BLINDING...

...SCREAMING...

...ROARING!

NO!

DON'T LEAVE ME!

NO, EDDIE.

YOU MUST LET GO. MUST LET IT TAKE YOU.

I WILL FIND YOU, EDDIE.

ALWAYS FIND YOU.

KUHHH...

HGNN!

NO!

OH MY GOD...

JEAN... THESE READINGS... THIS ENERGY SOURCE.

YOU'RE RIGHT... IT BEHAVES JUST LIKE A SYMBIOTE. IT ALWAYS HAS...

THIS... GOD OF LIGHT...

I-- I KNOW WHAT IT IS.

WE ALL DO...

WE'VE JUST BEEN CALLING IT BY THE WRONG NAME...

HEH...

"CAPTAIN UNIVERSE."

...FINALLY...

...THE ENIGMA FORCE...

...SOLVED.

BOOM

I HEAR IT. IT CALLS TO ME.

TELLS ME I HAVE BEEN CHOSEN.

TELLS ME TO RISE.

TELLS ME TO CHOOSE MY NEW FORM.

I CAN BARELY HEAR IT OVER THE POWER OF THE LIGHT.

BUT I LAUGH AS IT ASKS ME...

...BECAUSE THERE'S ONLY EVER BEEN ONE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION...

MEANWHILE...

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY.

IT'S *DIFFERENT*, THIS POWER.

OKAY, BROCK...

IT'S *ANCIENT*.

STRANGE...

YOU BETTER BE RIGHT ABOUT THIS...

BUT SOMEHOW...

...FAMILIAR.

BOOM

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I AM NOW.

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'LL BE ENOUGH TO BEAT BACK THE VOID...

ALL I KNOW...

...IS THAT *I'M BACK.*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF FLASH THOMPSON

AND I'M *MAD.*

SO NOW...

...WIN OR LOSE...

...GOOD OR BAD...

...LIGHT OR DARK...

...EVERYTHING IS ABOUT TO CHANGE.

EMORY OF

ASH

ON

VENOM

#200